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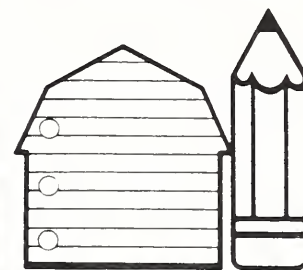
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# Ag in the Classroom

# Notes

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



A bi-monthly newsletter for the Agriculture in the Classroom program. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help students understand the important role of agriculture in the United States economy. For information, contact: Shirley Traxler, Director, Room 234-W, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. 202 447-5727

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## Minnesota Magazine

Minnesota Ag in the Classroom has kicked off a major educational effort with the introduction of a new magazine called Minnesota Agriculture.

The magazine, which is targeted to sixth grade readers, is designed to help students learn more about the source of their food supply and the role of agriculture in the economy and society.

"Agriculture is our state's number one industry and vitally important to our well-being," said Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture, Jim Nichols. "We're excited that students will now have the opportunity to further explore agriculture and its link to this great state.

"The magazine is designed to be easily integrated into a number of subject areas. We hope all schools will use the publication and are relying on school principals to help facilitate its placement in the proper grade level," said Nichols.

Minnesota Agriculture, which has the strong support of the Minnesota Elementary Principals Association, will be published four times during the

*continued on page 2*



Minnesota Agriculture Magazine is designed to be easily integrated into many subject areas.

## Georgia Update

Georgia Ag in the Classroom has instituted a broad-based, 3-tier plan that features team-teaching and multi-level training to expand the state's ag teaching network.

### 1—Train the "trainers"

The first tier of the program was a two-day training session held in October. The participants were 31 educators, including education center directors from the Georgia Council on Economic Education, regional early childhood consultants, and members of the Georgia Ag in the Classroom task force. The

session was designed to make the participants qualified Ag in the Classroom "trainers."

### 2—Trainers teach leaders

The second tier of the teaching plan is scheduled for January and February 1987.

Curriculum directors, school directors and lead teachers from each of Georgia's 200 school systems have been invited to attend one of 13 regional workshops. Invitations are by letters from the state school superintendent. Participants at these regional workshops will be taught Ag in the Classroom concepts by the 31 "trainers" who

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school year and distributed through elementary and middle school principals.

"This is just the beginning," said Alan Withers of Minnesota Ag in the Classroom. "In the near future we hope to expand on the magazine format and do other things at other grade levels."

## Here's an excerpt from the September issue:

### Discover Minnesota Agriculture

We may be the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" and "Mosquito Mecca," but we have other claims to fame, too! Minnesota's farms produce a wider variety of foods than most other states.

In fact, we rank among the top ten states in 20 different agricultural categories! (Which can you name?) We lead the nation in raising sugarbeets and sweet corn, and we're near the top in turkeys, hogs, cheese and other commodities (products) you like to eat. Minnesota is 6th among all states in agricultural exports, mainly corn, soybeans, and wheat. We're number two among the states in farm population and 6th in the number of farms. The facts tell us that Minnesota ranks... and ag is big business here!

### Your Own 4 1/2 Acres: That's What It Takes!

There's an average of 4 1/2 acres farmed for each and every man, woman and child in America. (That includes YOU!) From your own 4 1/2 acres your food and clothing needs are met. Here's what you eat or use every year:

616 lbs. paper  
304 lbs. dairy products  
240.3 lbs. vegetables  
156.6 lbs. red meat  
142.3 lbs. fruit and juice  
79.4 lbs. potatoes  
63 lbs. turkey and chicken  
23 lbs. melon  
14.2 lbs. cotton  
.5 lbs. wool

That's a whopping 1639.3 lbs. each year... and it's all thanks to agriculture!

## "Ag-Cited" in Kansas

The Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom knows how to get Kansas fairgoers "ag-cited"



Agricultural questionnaires help guide students through the "Ag-Citing Experience" at the Kansas State Fair.

about agriculture. The foundation won the Governor's Pride of Kansas Award for its "Ag-Citing Experience" exhibit at the state fair in Hutchinson.

"Ag-Citing" was an agricultural learning experience for all participants. On entering the exhibit, visitors were handed agricultural activity lessons. Lessons contained questions which ranged from pre-school to adult level. Questions such as, how much water does the average dairy cow need to drink daily? Or, how do you tell if a pumpkin is genuine and not actually a squash? The answers were found within other exhibits throughout the Pride of Kansas building. Participants who brought back completed activity lessons received prizes.

The exhibit also consisted of eight mini courses for class groups. Such ag topics as "Ice Cream on the Hoof," and "Egg-stra, Egg-stra, Learn All About It" were included. At "Ice Cream on the Hoof," a dairy farmer spoke to children about different breeds of cows, the foods that cows eat, and the various beef and dairy products. "Egg-stra, Egg-stra, Learn All About It" concerned the nutritional value and versatility of eggs.

Youngsters also learned about the food other animals eat at the petting zoo. They had the opportunity to feed pigs, chickens and cows.

Loreen Locke McMillan, of Kansas Ag in the Classroom said, "516 teachers registered for free ag education materials at the fair. It's exciting to know that our exhibit will affect the lives of more than 10,000 students in Kansas."

McMillan also said that the foundation already has new ideas for next year's exhibit at the fair.



# Spotlight

## Carolyn Holleran—Pennsylvania

Educators in Berks County, Pennsylvania, have Carolyn Holleran to thank for the county's growing Ag in the Classroom network. As Economics Specialist and Coordinator of Professional Development of the Berks County Intermediate Unit, Holleran has been coordinating and leading workshops, courses, farm visits and other agricultural programs in an effort to encourage teachers to incorporate Ag in the Classroom.

Under her guidance, more than 400 teachers have discovered new methods of teaching agriculture. One such educator commented, "I continue to be surprised at the enthusiasm of teachers if you present ag material to them properly."

Holleran said, "One of the most difficult aspects of teaching ag, is that there is so much to teach. However, our aim is to instruct our teachers on how to implement Ag in the Classroom strategies by integrating agriculture with other school subjects, such as math, social studies, economics and science."

Another unique program that Holleran has coordinated is the "Farm-City Exchange." In this program, school superintendents visit farms and assist the farmer in daily chores. They learn about farm operations, marketing, production and food processing. Farmers then "walk in the superintendent's shoes for a day," to learn about educational policies and duties. Holleran explains that the role-reversal program has been very successful. "Par-

ticipants gain a better understanding of the complexities of both occupations," she said.

Because agri-business is Berks County's number one industry, Holleran has also held several "Agri-business Careers" workshops for teachers and guidance counselors. Speakers at these workshops have included farmers, ag editors, ag marketing directors, USDA soil conservationists, and members of the Farm Credit Service.

Richard Prether of Pennsylvania Ag in the Classroom explains that Carolyn Holleran's enthusiasm has helped Pennsylvania shape one of the country's most progressive Ag in the Classroom programs. "Carolyn was doing 'Ag in the Classroom' before there was [an] Ag in the Classroom [program]. Without her efforts, we'd be two to three years behind where we are now."

Holleran has won many awards for her community service, including the Valley Forge Foundation Educator Award, Berks County Agriculture Public Relations Award, and most recently, the Berks County Trendsetter Award.

Partners in the Berks County Ag program include: Berks County (BC) Chamber of Commerce Ag-Business Council, BC Intermediate Unit, BC Farmers Association, BC Granges, BC Conservancy, BC Extension Service-Penn State University, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Pennsylvania Council on Economic Education.



Carolyn Holleran has helped make Pennsylvania's Berks County Ag in the Classroom program one of the most progressive in the nation.

## CAST Magazine to Teachers and Libraries Nationwide

When a magazine increases circulation from 12,000 to 160,000 in one year, that's news! Science of Food and Agriculture, published by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), anticipates this massive leap in circulation during the current school year.

Copies of each of the four issues of the magazine are being sent free of charge to 103,000 grade 7-12 science teachers registered with the National Science Teachers Association, 8,500 vocational agriculture departments, and 47,000 school and public libraries. Science of Food & Agriculture aims to inform teachers about the scientific aspects of food production and processing, and to heighten young people's awareness of career opportunities in the modern American food

and fiber sector.

During the first three years of its existence, free copies of Science of Food and Agriculture were sent to 12,000 heads of high school science departments. Survey results indicated high usage of the magazine for background and direct classroom instruction.

The first issue of the magazine under the new project was distributed in September; others will follow in November 1986 and January and March 1987. Prices for single subscriptions are \$6 for one year, \$10 for two years. Bulk subscriptions are available at discount prices. More information may be obtained by contacting CAST, 137 Lynn Avenue, Ames IA 50010, (515) 292-2125.

## Science of Food and Agriculture



Science of Food and Agriculture

CAST has a 14-year history of educating the public about the scientific aspects of American agriculture.



# Nebraska's Ag in the Classroom Learning Activities Notebook



Nebraska's Ag in the Classroom program is delivering new and innovative ways to integrate the food and fiber production system into school curriculums.

Nebraska's Ag in the Classroom Learning Activities Notebook helps teachers and students appreciate and understand the food and fiber production system and its role in our economy and society.

The new notebook consists of 22 folders containing lesson plans and resource materials. Teachers select activities to integrate into their existing curriculums from the 22 folders, which contain the following:

1. Suggested grade level for the activity (activities can be revised to fit any grade level).
2. Background information pertaining to the activity.
3. Resource addresses to obtain more information related to the activity.
4. Suggested procedures to use with the materials.
5. Additional projects to reinforce or supplement the activity.

6. Reproducible worksheets and activity sheets for student use.

7. Answer keys for easy and immediate student feedback.

The activities are intended as a springboard to get the students excited and enthusiastic about learning the source of their food and fiber.

One lesson that students particularly like is called "Pig Math." In Pig Math, students work math problems to discover and identify the by-products of hogs. Students work rows of math problems and write the answers in the blanks above the problems. They then refer to a "secret letter code," which is arranged so that each letter of the alphabet corresponds to a number. Students use the answers to find the appropriate letters in the code, and fill in the blanks below the math problems. Each finished row of problems becomes a finished word that is a by-product of hogs.

Another popular lesson is called "Seeds, Seeds, Seeds," where students learn to categorize seeds into three groups—grains, fruits/vegetables and flowers—and identify five different crops produced in Nebraska.

Julie Stagemeyer, a Nebraska teacher who uses the publication, says, "Through the use of the activities in the notebook, the students were able to understand the total process...where the food comes from and how it gets to the table."

Another Nebraska teacher, Sheryl Stoffer, comments, "Our social studies textbook introduces dairy farming...I use activities from the notebook to expand and enrich the lesson from our textbook."

The notebook became available in June 1986. It is now being used in the classrooms of all teachers who participated during the past three summers in Nebraska Ag teacher workshops.

## Utah

Utah Elementary Teachers Involved in Ag Education.

Utah's Ag in the Classroom program has trained more than 100 teachers in the largest school

Utah teacher field trips have included visits to historical and modern dairy farms.



district in the state. A total of four teacher inservices have been completed—each received very high marks by the teachers.

"We feel this educational effort has been very worthwhile and are quite pleased with the teachers' positive responses," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture Miles 'Cap' Ferry. "The teachers are using activities and resources from the inservice to enrich their classroom teaching."

Field trips to a historic farm, a modern dairy farm, and to a university campus offer varying perspectives on the agricultural industry. Teachers learn that agriculture is more than production, that it includes research, development, distribution, marketing and promotion.

Some of the things the teachers are encouraged to do when they return to the classroom include hatching eggs, testing for nutrients, studying geotropism germination, experimenting with chromatography, and demonstrating methods of soil and water conservation.



completed the October session.

Participants in the regional seminars will also be given a packet of curriculum materials that can be easily integrated into existing curriculums.

### 3—Leaders reach teachers

In order to receive the curriculum materials, representatives from each of the Georgia school systems must attend one of the regional meetings, or arrange to have a trainer visit their districts.

The third tier of the plan calls for the regional workshop participants to return to their local school systems to "teach the teachers," who in turn can integrate the ag materials into their curriculums.

The new curriculum materials were funded through an appropriation by the state legislature to the Georgia Council on Economic Education.

While the materials will be formally introduced to school teachers next year, they have been pilot-tested by many Georgia teachers. One teacher who has been part of the pilot project is Jan Witherington (see box).



A kindergarten class in Macon, Georgia, learns about the importance of nutrition.

## Ag in the Kindergarten

The children in Jan Witherington's kindergarten class clap their hands and touch their toes as they sing, "Zipple, zapple, in my tummy goes my apple."

"All the food I eat helps me to grow up strong."

Using Chef Combo, a puppet created by the Dairy Council, Witherington asks the children to select one item from a number of foods on a table, and decide to which of the four food groups it belongs.

Paper grocery sacks are labeled with words and pictures for dairy products, meats, breads and cereals, and fruits and vegetables.

Part of Georgia's Ag in the Classroom pilot project, the morning kindergarten class at Burghard Elementary School in Macon, learns "where food comes from," and the importance of eating a proper diet.

Each morning, Witherington reviews with the

children what they need to eat from each food group, and encourages them to discuss their favorite food in each group.

Later, the class splits into smaller task groups. Tasks may include drawing pictures of a favorite food in each group, or using plastic strips of bacon and small fried eggs to learn arithmetic.

Witherington also uses audio cassettes, accompanied by student manuals, to teach students about farm animals and food production.

A slide-audio machine features a cartoon about a girl named Nancy, who, by eating the right foods, assists the healing of bruises in time for her to appear in the school play.

The Georgia Ag in the Classroom Task Force includes representatives from the Georgia Farm Bureau, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, the State Departments of Agriculture and Education, the University of Georgia and the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

## Western Regional Conference

The Western Region Ag in the Classroom Conference, to be held next March 5-7 in Sacramento, CA, will bring together coordinators and volunteers from the 13 western states for three days of motivation and inspiration.

The conference has been structured to include plenty of time for exchange of ideas between states, continuous exhibits of resource materials, and Ag in the Classroom speakers from across the nation. A variety of sessions—both general and small group—will be conducted on fundraising,

careers, teacher training, ag in textbooks, school gardens, and many other topics.

An optional day-long tour of agriculture in California's beautiful Napa Valley will precede an evening reception formally opening the conference on March 5.

Registration materials will be distributed in early January. To receive a packet, send your name and address to Mark Linder, California Farm Bureau-FB 13, 1601 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815.



## Fresno

Thanks to 30 Fresno, California, elementary school teachers who attended a local five-day ag seminar, A (for Agriculture) has been added to the "Three R's"... Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic... in the Fresno Unified School District(FUSD).

Lonna Torrico, program manager of FUSD and coordinator of the Fresno Summer Ag Seminar, says the inspiration to organize the local effort came from her own participation in the Ag Summer Institute in Sacramento (see SAI article).



Summer Ag Seminar participants hear presentations on a cross section of issues facing agriculture in Fresno County.

After completing the week-long seminar, graduates receive classroom materials and 2 units credit from California State University, Fresno.



"After learning so much at the Institute, all I could think of was, how could I pay the organizers of such an eye-opening experience back? I'd become so much more aware of the different aspects of the agri-business world."

Torrico decided to implement the program outlined in the state-wide California Farm Bureau Federation Seminar. "Fresno is the first county to follow SAI's lead, and we hope that we'll serve as a pilot for other counties throughout the state," she said.

"The Institute's seminar made me conscious of the need and importance of informing and educating our Fresno students. Due to the overwhelming success of our local seminar, agriculture is already being incorporated into the development of lesson plans for reading, social studies, math, and all other curriculum areas.

"For example, math problems might involve tons of grapes, or acres of land; reading might incorporate topics such as climate, pests, economics, and other challenges facing farmers and ranchers. Also, classroom instruction will be supplemented by farm tours, and by bringing farm animals to schools."

According to seminar Committee Chairman Dean Thonesen, of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, one of every three jobs in California is related to the food chain, "yet, few individuals understand the processes involved in the production of food and fiber."

Said Thonesen, "This lack of knowledge emphasizes the need for the study of agriculture to be introduced into California's classrooms. Most city students...even here in Fresno County, the world's number one agricultural county...are one to two generations away from the farm. Their impression is that food originates in the grocery store and milk comes from a carton."

Cooperating with the Farm Bureau in sponsorship of the seminars were California State University, Fresno; the California Department of Agriculture; California Women for Agriculture; and Fresno Unified School District.

## California—Summer Ag Institute

Thirty California teachers have learned there is more going on at old MacDonald's farm than meets the eye—and they have brought that new understanding to the classroom.

The educators participated in the California Summer Agricultural Institute. The week-long seminar, conducted in Sacramento, is an on-going summer educational program which is capped off with an aerial tour of 13 counties and an overnight stay with a farm family.

"The overnight visit is really the highlight of the week for many of the teachers," said Mark Linder, Farm Bureau director for agricultural education. "The knowledge that the teachers are able to pick up from their host families far surpasses what they may learn in the classroom. At the same time, farm

families are able to gain greater understanding of the classroom approach to teaching today's children.

"This is the third year for the Institute and we believe the children of our schools have benefited from the time their teachers give to learning about agriculture."

During the week the teachers learn the economic outlook for today's farmers from several bankers. They also receive a preview of the high technology that is employed in agriculture, from genetic engineering to computers. Four special concerns of agriculture—marketing, consumer trends, water development and international trade—also are reviewed.



"The Summer Agricultural Institute significantly increases participants' knowledge of agricultural issues, while changing their attitudes to reflect a more positive, realistic view of the industry," says Christine M. Bruhn, Ph.D., of the University of California, Davis, Center for Consumer Research.

Dr. Bruhn's findings are based on a survey of the 30 1986 SAI class members. The survey was comprised of information taken from two identical tests administered to the group—one on the first day, before educational sessions began, and one at the end of the week's activities. The test included general questions about agricultural policy and the importance of agriculture in California's economy, plus specific questions about farming and industry-careers.

correct to a high of 70% correct, with a mean score of 47% correct. The same test, administered on the last day of the Institute, resulted in a low of 47% correct, a high of 100% correct, and a mean score of 84% correct—an increase in mean score of 37 points. Thus, the effectiveness of the SAI in conveying knowledge of agriculture and its role in California was clearly demonstrated.

The latter test also illustrated increased sensitivity to farmers and current farm issues. Specifically, by week's end, participants perceived farmers "as willing to change with the times by adopting new technology in their operations, and as being responsive to changing consumer demand."

Participants also improved their perceptions of the agricultural career opportunities available. "They now can relate to more than farming or production as ag careers," says Dr. Bruhn.

Scores on the pretest ranged from a low of 26%

## Listen to USDA's World Outlook Conference from Your Classroom

High school students studying agriculture, farm policy or current events will have an opportunity to listen in on national leaders in the midst of their discussions at the World Outlook Conference, in Washington, D.C. December 2nd-4th.

A nationwide telephone hookup will enable callers to listen in on the main discussion session of "Outlook '87" by dialing (900) 410-JEFF. Special telephone rates will apply.

**NOTE:** In order to listen to Outlook '87, you must dial direct from a phone with long distance service. The cost will be 50 cents for the first minute, and 35 cents for each additional minute—about \$22 per hour.

If you plan to listen, be sure to request the final 900-Line Schedule. The 900-Line Schedule lists confirmed times and speakers. Call (202) 447-3050 or write 900 Line, WAOB, Rm. 5143 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### National Meeting of Ag in the Classroom

In Washington, DC  
June 7-9, 1987

At the Holiday Inn  
Capitol

For state task force members, volunteers, and others actively involved in AITC programs

Note: Reception at the Holiday Inn Capitol (500 C Street, SW) on Sunday, June 7 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

## Preliminary Schedule (Eastern Time)

### Tuesday, Dec. 2

<b>Morning</b>	Outlook for 1987
<b>10:00</b>	Conference Opening. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter Myers
<b>10:20 - 10:50</b>	Outlook for the Economy
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b>	Outlook for World and U.S. Agriculture
<b>11:30 - 12:00</b>	Outlook for Agricultural Trade
<b>Afternoon</b>	Global Agriculture in Transition
<b>1:30 - 2:00</b>	Global Agricultural Supply and Demand Trends
<b>2:00 - 2:30</b>	Alternative Perspective: Australian Official
<b>2:45 - 3:15</b>	Implications for U.S. Farmers and Public Policy
<b>3:15 - 3:45</b>	Implications for U.S. Agribusiness Strategies
<b>4:00 - 5:00</b>	Distinguished Panel: Where is U.S. Agriculture Headed?

### Wednesday Dec. 3

<b>Morning</b>	Grain and Oilseed Outlook
<b>8:15 - 9:15</b>	Wheat Outlook
<b>9:30 - 10:30</b>	Feed Grain Outlook
<b>10:45 - 11:45</b>	Oilseeds Outlook
<b>11:45 - 12:00</b>	Secretary Lyng Addresses Conference
<b>Afternoon</b>	Sweetener and Livestock Outlook
<b>1:15 - 2:15</b>	Sugar and Sweeteners Outlook
<b>2:30 - 3:30</b>	Dairy Outlook
<b>3:45 - 4:45</b>	Cattle and Hog Outlook
<b>4:45 - 5:45</b>	Poultry Outlook, Meat and Poultry Marketing Issues

### Thursday Dec. 4

<b>Morning</b>	Financial Outlook for Farmers
<b>8:30 - 9:30</b>	Farm Income and Finance Outlook
<b>9:45 - 10:45</b>	Farm Credit Outlook
<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	Panel: Adjusting to Financial Stress

The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state. If you have any questions, want to make reports, or need more information about your state's Ag in the Classroom program, contact the following:

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